



A WALK IN THE WOODS

Discovering California Forests

Exhibit Dates: December 18, 2004 – May 22, 2005 • Exhibit Place: REDLANDS
media contacts: Jennifer Reynolds, media specialist • (909) 307-2669 ext. 278
or Robert McKernan, museum director, (909) 307-2669 ext. 263

TAKE A ‘WALK IN THE WOODS’

The Forest Foundation is bringing California's forests to the San Bernardino County Museum in Redlands from December 18 through May 22. *A Walk in the Woods*, an interactive exhibit, captivates visitors' attention and provides children and adults the chance to learn about natural forest cycles, the animals inhabiting forests, and the relationship between our daily lives and the use of natural resources.

"*A Walk in the Woods* is a great opportunity to see a forest ecosystem up close and in person," said Jolene Redvale, museum curator of education. "It's amazing to think about it—80 percent of the kids in the San Bernardino Valley have never been to the mountains! For some, going outside into nature can be an intimidating experience. This exhibit gives visitors a chance to understand forests, and we hope it encourages them to make that trip to the mountains to see and feel the trees."

This hands-on display features a realistic forest environment, including wildlife images, birds and animal calls, babbling brooks, and the sound of wind and rain. Once inside, students learn a variety of facts about products brought to us by forests, from church pews and incense to rayon clothing and medicine. A life-like tree stump is on hand with tips on how to classify different tree varieties. Students can learn how to create a forest management plan which allows them to decide what trees to harvest, as well as learn about the many laws that preside over the most protected woodlands in the world, California's forests.

The exhibit is tailor-made for students, but thousands of families and individuals are expected to tour the "*Walk in the Woods*" exhibit. This exhibit is one of the primary efforts of The Forest Foundation,

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY MUSEUM

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A WALK IN THE WOODS *(continued)*

whose mission is to inform Californians about the relationship between the forest environment and human needs.

“Many people lack a complete understanding about how forest resources are managed and how forest products are used,” continued Redvale. “Here, we can see everything from how trees grow to how they are processed into the products we use every day: lumber, pencils, wood furniture. Forest management is an important issue, and all citizens should have the opportunity to participate in how their resources are managed. This is the same for all of our natural resources—and understanding how they work is the first step to taking action to protect them.”

The San Bernardino County Museum is at the California Street exit from Interstate 10 in Redlands. The museum is open Tuesdays through Sundays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$6 (adult), \$5 (student or senior) and \$4 (child 5-12). Children under 5 and Museum Association members are admitted free. Parking is free, and the facility is handicapped-accessible. For more information, visit www.sbcountymuseum.org or call (909) 307-2669.

About The Forest Foundation

The Forest Foundation is a non-profit organization created in 1994 to inform the public, specifically Californians, about the relationship between the environment and human needs. The Forest Foundation strives to foster public understanding of the role forests play in the environmental and economic health of the state and the necessity of managing a portion of California's private and public forests to provide wood products for a growing population. For more information visit www.calforestfoundation.org